


WHAT COMMON CORE IS . . . AND ISN'T

- **It IS more rigorous academic standards** in English language arts and math that were adopted by Nevada in 2010.
- **It is NOT a curriculum.** Local school districts still have curriculum control. Schools and teachers still decide the best way their students should learn.
- **It is NOT testing.** Each state is responsible for deciding how it will monitor how students are doing. Nevada helped develop the Smarter Balanced assessments that are aligned to the new standards, so it decided to use the Smarter Balanced system.
- **It is NOT data collection.** Nevada must report student achievement data in a variety of subjects, regardless of what standards are involved.



WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

To learn more about Nevada's standards and assessments, visit NevadaReady.gov

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 www.facebook.com/NevadaReady

OTHER RESOURCES:

PTA Parents' Guides to Student Success:

<http://www.pta.org/parents/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2583>

Common Core Resources for Parents and Community Members:

<http://achievethecore.org/common-core-intro-for-parents>

Take the Practice Test! Parents and students can experience what Smarter Balanced tests are like at http://www.doe.nv.gov/Assessments/SBAC_Smarter_Balanced/Online_Practice_Tests/



**ENSURING ALL NEVADANS
ARE READY FOR SUCCESS**

**THE NEVADA ACADEMIC CONTENT
STANDARDS BASED ON COMMON CORE**



WHAT ARE OTHERS SAYING?

"To be ready for college and careers, Nevada's students need to master skills such as critical thinking, analytical writing and problem solving. The new assessments Nevada will be using have been specifically developed to measure these real-world skills. This is an exciting and challenging time for students and educators in Nevada."

- **Mark Newburn**, member of the Nevada State Board of Education, writing in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* opinion pages in December 2014

"The Nevada Board of Regents endorsed Common Core enthusiastically because Nevada faces a stark reality—50 percent of recent Nevada high school graduates admitted to Nevada universities, and 60 percent of recent Nevada high school graduates admitted to Nevada colleges, need some form of remediation."

- **Michael B. Wixom and Jason Geddes**, members of the Nevada Board of Regents, writing a guest commentary for *Elko Daily Free Press* in March 2015

"The standards will strengthen the state's workforce and economy as more students graduate from high school with the knowledge, skills and ability needed to succeed in a new economy. Nevada's employers will benefit through the higher standards with employees that are prepared for entry-level careers."

- **Jim Pfrommer**, president of the Education Alliance of Washoe County and **Brent Husson**, president for Nevada Succeeds, writing in *Nevada Business Magazine* in October 2014

"The Metro Chamber fully supports the Common Core Standards . . . They are a key component of the work we are doing to improve the schools in Southern Nevada and make our community a more attractive place to live and do business."

- The **Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce** in *Business Voice* in August 2014

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENTS

- These are BETTER tests, NOT MORE tests. The assessments replace existing CRT tests in English and math in grades 3-8 and writing in grades 5 and 8.
- The assessments are fully aligned to the Nevada Academic Content Standards to more accurately measure a student's skills in English language arts and math.
- Smarter Balanced assessments are better than the old tests because they are highly interactive and will give our teachers and parents a more realistic measure of student progress.



NEW TESTS = HIGHER EXPECTATIONS

Because the Smarter Balanced assessments are based on higher expectations, test scores might initially be lower as students adjust to more rigorous standards. Lower test scores do not mean schools are performing worse or that students are learning less. Rather, it means we now have a more accurate measure of where students are on the path to success, based on the higher standards and expectations. We previously measured basic proficiency; now we will measure college and career readiness.

WHY IS THIS A BIG DEAL FOR NEVADA?

- Nevada needed more challenging standards to prepare its students for college and the modern workplace and to place Nevada's education system on par with other states.
- Right now only 28% of Nevada adults have an associate degree or higher – by 2020, 58% of all jobs in Nevada will require a career certificate or college degree.
- Over 50% of Nevada's high school graduates need remediation in college.
- Common Core is helping Nevada students graduate ready for success after high school.